

REMARKS:

The Office action mailed January 9, 2008 has been received and carefully considered. A Request for Continued Examination is filed herewith. Reconsideration in view of the following and in view of the Request for Continued Examination is requested.

The claims have been rejected as obvious in view of a combination of DE 298 10 798 (German Schafer) and Jackson 6,004,349. The claims have been amended to better distinguish over applicant's prior patent (6,004,349). In particular, the claims call for a plurality of revolutions of the left hand thread about the bore, as seen in Fig. 5. Because applicant is using the radially interlocking guide and advancement flange, the closure can be torqued to a much higher torque than the prior art without splaying of the receiver arms. The left handed thread provided allows for a substantial grip by the removal tool to offset the greater torquing. The cited Jackson reference shows a reverse thread, but it extends only one half turn. This is because the function is completely different. In the earlier device, the thread was to allow an easy out to gain purchase to start cutting into the wall of the bore. In the present device, the thread must be multiple turns to allow gripping by a left handed threaded tool that mates with the thread in the bore and allows a much higher removal torque to be applied. It is urged that such a thread is not suggested to one having ordinary skill

in the art by review of the earlier Jackson device.

Furthermore, the Examiner continues to take the position that the German reference of Schafer shows a helical wound structure. Applicant continues to disagree with this premise. There is nothing that requires a "grub screw", as it is translated from the German, to be helically wound. Such a screw can have mating portions that rotate, for example 90°, into each other and such are well known. It is believed that this is what is shown in the German reference. Further, as previously discussed, the German reference cannot be helically wound because the various tiers have no pitch. A thread or other structure must have a pitch to be helically wound.

Still further, in support of applicant's position, the inventor of the German reference is also the inventor of U.S. Patent 6,540,749. This patent shows a perspective view of a device used by the inventor which has a structure that is of the same type as is believed to be shown in his earlier German patent. In particular, it shows a "nose" 48 that has no pitch that rotates 90° into grooves 42 in the receiver. It is believed that the later Shafer patent supports applicant's analysis of the earlier patent and that applicant's position would be the same interpretation as those having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the filing of the present application. Consequently, it is urged that the claims are allowable for this reason also.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone, if prosecution of this application can be expedited thereby.

Respectfully Submitted,



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John C. McMahon  
Reg No. 29,415  
Attorney

JCM:lm  
PO Box 30069  
Kansas City, Missouri  
64112  
Phone: (816) 531-3470

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Mail Stop RCE  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on  
June 9, 2008.

Roger P. Jackson  
(Applicant)

By



June 9, 2008

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(Date of Signature)